Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A video information retrieval system comprising:

(i)——a client system having:

(i)____(ii)——means for issuing a search request in respect of desired video material; and

(ii)____(iii)——means for accessing video material using on said basis of a uniform resource

locator (URL) and a SMPTE unique material identifier (UMID);

a server system having:

(i)   access to one or more databases containing metadata information relating to a plurality of

video material items, a UMID associated with each video material item and at least one

URL associated with each UMID;

(ii)   means for receiving a search request from said client system and detecting one or more

video material items for which metadata information stored in at least one of said

database(s) substantially corresponds to said search request;

(iii)   means for supplying said metadata information, said URL and said UMID relating to said

one or more detected video material items to said client system;

(iv)   and at least one video repository having:

(v)   a video storage arrangement storing video material and associated UMID data;

(vi)   in which said metadata, said URL and said UMID are communicated between said server

and said client using a markup language having descriptors for data content.   .

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2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said search requests are communicated between said server and said client using a markup language having descriptors for data content.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said database stores metadata in a hierarchical representation using a markup language having descriptors for data content.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said markup language is an extensible markup language (XML).

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said client and said server communicate via http port 80.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said server system is operable to supply URLs to said client system for accessing said video material in a broadcast-quality representation.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said server system is operable to supply URLs to said client system for accessing said video material in a sub-broadcast-quality representation.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which said server system is operable to supply URLs and video timecodes to said client system for accessing single images representative of said content of the video material.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, in which said server, said client and said video repository communicate via ~~said~~ a world wide web.

10. (Original) A video information server having:

(i)   access to one or more databases containing metadata information relating to a plurality of video material items, a SMPTE unique material identifier (UMID) associated with each video material item and a uniform resource locator (URL) associated with each UMID;

(ii)   means for receiving a search request from a client system and detecting one or more video material items for which metadata information stored in at least on of said database(s) substantially corresponds to said search request;

(iii)   means for supplying said metadata information, said URL and said UMID relating to said one or more detected video material items to said client system using a markup language having descriptors for data content.

11. (Currently Amended) A video information retrieval client system comprising:

(i)   means for issuing a search request to a video information server system in respect of desired video material;

(ii)   means for receiving search results from said server system comprising at least a uniform resource locator (URL) and a SMPTE unique material identifier (UMID); and

(iii)   means for accessing video data from a video repository ~~on said basis of~~ using said URL and said UMID data;

(iv)   in which said metadata, said URL and said UMID are communicated between said server

and said client using a markup language having descriptors for data content.

12. (Original) A method of video information retrieval using a server system having access to one or more databases containing metadata information relating to a plurality of video material items, a SMPTE unique material identifier (UMID) associated with each video material item and a URL associated with each UMID; said method comprising the steps of:

(i)   a client system issuing a search request in respect of desired video material;

(ii)   said server system receiving said search request from said client system and detecting one or more video material items for which metadata information stored in at least one of the database(s) substantially corresponds to said search request; and

(iii)   said server system supplying said metadata information, said URL and said UMID relating to said one or more detected video material items to said client system using a markup language having descriptors for data content;

(iv)   said client system accessing video material on the basis of said uniform resource locator (URL) from a video repository having a video storage arrangement storing video material and associated UMID data.

13. (Original) Computer software having program code for carrying out a method according to claim 12.

14. (Original) A data providing medium by which computer software according to claim 13 is provided.

15. (Original) A medium according to claim 14, said medium being a transmission medium.

16. (Original) A medium according to claim 14, said medium being a storage medium.

17. (New) A video information retrieval system comprising:

a client system having:

(i)   a request issuer to issue a search request in respect of desired video material; and

(ii)   a video accessor to access using a uniform resource locator (URL) and a SMPTE unique material identifier (UMID);

a server system having:

(i)   access to one or more databases containing metadata information relating to a plurality of video material items, a UMID associated with each video material item and at least one URL associated with each UMID;

(ii)   a receiver to receive a search request from said client system and detecting one or more video material items for which metadata information stored in at least one of said database(s) substantially corresponds to said search request;

(iii)   an information supplier to supply said metadata information, said URL and said UMID relating to said one or more detected video material items to said client system;

(iv)   and at least one video repository having:

(v)   a video storage arrangement storing video material and associated UMID data;

(vi)   in which said metadata, said URL and said UMID are communicated between said server and said client using a markup language having descriptors for data content.

18. (New) A video information server having:

(i) access to one or more databases containing metadata information relating to a plurality of video material items, a SMPTE unique material identifier (UMID) associated with each video material item and a uniform resource locator (URL) associated with each UMID;

(ii) a receiver to receive a search request from a client system and detecting one or more video material items for which metadata information stored in at least on of said database(s) substantially corresponds to said search request;

(iii) an information supplier to supply said metadata information, said URL and said UMID relating to said one or more detected video material items to said client system using a markup language having descriptors for data content.

19. (New) A video information retrieval client system comprising:

(i) a request issuer to issue a search request to a video information server system in respect of desired video material, said video information server system having access to one or more databases containing metadata information relating to a plurality of video material items;

(ii) a receiver to receive search results from said server system comprising at least a uniform resource locator (URL) and a SMPTE unique material identifier (UMID); and

(iii) a video accessor to access video data from a video repository using said URL and said UMID data;

(iv) in which said metadata, said URL and said UMID are communicated between said server and said client using a markup language having descriptors for data content.

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